

tax deductibility for the self-employed, authorizing small employers' purchasing pools, and allowing Americans to have medical savings accounts. We are going to accomplish this without increasing government bureaucracy or writing thousands of pages of new regulations.

Mr. Speaker, we are increasing access while lowering costs. Should that not be the goal of any health care legislation? We are doing it with as little government influence as possible, or interference. I urge my colleagues to support 3103, and I would remind them that when we talk in this body about rich and wealthy, the liberal Democrats define that as anybody with a job.

DO NOT LET THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OBSTRUCT HEALTH CARE REFORM TODAY

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, among the greatest failures of this failed Republican Congress is the failure to address the real health care needs of the American people. Mr. Speaker, the failed Contract on America was essentially silent on this question. Last year Speaker GINGRICH's entire program on health care was, to use his words, let Medicare wither on the vine for the health care security of our seniors.

This year the strategy is a little different. It has been spelled out here in black and white in the House Republican national strategic plan for 1996. The health care plan they outline is, and I quote: "We will pursue a targeted inoculation strategy on Medicare"; not to inoculate against illness among the American people, but to inoculate against one of the most highly contagious illnesses politically in this country, and that is that the American people are beginning to understand the neglect and the failure of this Congress brought on by this Republican Party that cares more about special interests than the true national interests of the American people. Do not let them obstruct health care reform today. Let us do something for the 42 million American people who lack health insurance, health insurance coverage.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE SPEAKER'S REMARKS ON HCFA AND MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to correct the RECORD. The Speaker of the House stated that he would like to see the Health Care Financing Administration, which is the big bureaucracy created by liberal Democrats in Washington that processes all the claims, he would like to

see that wither on the vine, and the gentleman from Texas has misquoted the Speaker.

I would also like to rise in support of medical savings accounts. One of the biggest reasons why we have terrible health care inflation in American is because the providers and the consumers, both the doctor and the patient, are not the ones picking up the tab, and in medical savings accounts, the patients suddenly become wise and discriminating consumers. Where medical savings accounts have been implemented, cost savings average 17 percent. A 17-percent reduction in our health care costs in this Nation would be a huge benefit to our economy, a huge benefit to our industries, and a huge benefit for our competitiveness in the international markets.

It is good for consumers. Support the Republican health care bill.

THE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, last Friday was political payday for the NRA with a vote to repeal the assault weapons ban. Yesterday was political payday for the antichoice crowd with a vote to ban an extremely rare abortion procedure. And today, Mr. Speaker, is political payday for the Golden Rule Insurance Co. and its medical savings account scheme.

Today we will vote on a health insurance reform bill which includes medical savings accounts, at a cost of \$2 billion to taxpayers. It is no coincidence, however, that the Golden Rule Insurance Co. has given more than \$14 million to Republicans.

This chart, Mr. Speaker, demonstrates how a few large, well-placed contributions to the GOP resulted in today's vote on medical savings accounts.

Mr. Speaker, the old saying is true: He who has the gold, rules. And while the American people want serious health insurance reform, all they are getting from the GOP is cash-and-carry government.

RECOGNIZING A GOOD IDEA: MEDICAL SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

(Mr. MICA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I was going to speak on another subject, but I have to comment on the lack of information that the other side has on medical savings accounts. I, in fact, as chair of the Subcommittee on Civil Service of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, held hearings on this. We found that in every instance, for almost every State and local government that testified on these, we found lower costs, lower premiums, expanded coverage.

Because it was not a Washington command and control idea, they do not like it. Because it does not limit your choices, the other side does not like it. Because it is not an old government idea or solution, they do not like it. Mr. Speaker, I think if we had a new idea and it came up and bit them on the leg, they would not even recognize it. Mr. Speaker, this is a new idea. It saves costs. It saves premiums. It is a good idea. It is time for it.

REPUBLICAN ADD-ONS MAY DERAIL BIPARTISAN HEALTH REFORM TRAIN

(Mrs. SCHROEDER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHROEDER. Mr. Speaker, health insurance has really not been insurance for a very long time, because we have allowed those companies to refuse coverage to anybody who needs it. So today we have a great chance to do something about this. We have a chance to free people up who have been locked in their jobs because they do not dare lose their health insurance, and we have the ability of people to be able to port around their insurance coverage. And the Republican extremists in the House are about to derail this bipartisan train, this bipartisan train that came speeding out of the Senate, and this bipartisan train that the New York Times is talking about today, as they say, "The House Republicans have added amendments that are not only bad health policy, but could delay passage of this useful health care reform."

Mr. Speaker, I think it is time we stand up and say to the extremists, "Please, stop this. America has been waiting much too long for this portability and for having some price constraints, and ending the denying of these preexisting conditions as a way to shut you out of your health care. Stand up to the extremists, finally. Please, let us get some health care reform."

SUPPORT NEEDED AMENDMENT TO HEALTH CARE REFORM TO PROVIDE FOR LONG-TERM CARE

(Mr. ENSIGN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. Speaker, the Senate bill was, frankly, inadequate. I offered an amendment in the Committee on Ways and Means, which was accepted, which will address long-term health care for Americans. Most elderly Americans are unaware of the magnitude of long-term care costs and of the limits of Government assistance. Many Americans wrongly assumed that Government programs or their general insurance will cover the costs of any long-term care services they might need. The reality is that the cost of